



March Newsletter

Number 38

Dear Parents & Carers,

Time flies when you are enjoying yourself and it has now been some time since our last news round-up. Make sure you are sitting comfortably...

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Book Week



This week we have enjoyed a book week with various themed activities. Thank you to all the parents who volunteered to come and share favourite books with the children.

We have discovered (or rediscovered) all sorts of literary gems - do you remember "The Giant Jam Sandwich" or the "Cautionary Tales" of Hilaire Beloc?

The Scholastic Book Sale has been a big success. Overall takings are, to date just over £590 with a few orders and related payments still to come. This means the school will receive over £350 worth of books which represents 60% commission on all sales. Thank you to everyone who purchased books and, in doing so helped us to provide many more books for the children.

The Book-Swap also proved a great success with some fantastic books changing hands to be

enjoyed by others. The quality of the books on offer was very high and, as far as I can tell, everyone went away with something new to enjoy.



We have organised a number of quizzes and activities - the Junior children have been busy guessing the answers to the "Classic Books" trail.

Friday was dress-up day with children coming to school in costume as a character from a book. The staff also worked hard on their costumes. The grand parade took place during our Friday celebration assembly with certificates being awarded for the most original costumes from each class.

Parental Involvement



Thank you to everyone who returned the parent questionnaires. These will be analysed, in full, by a group of governors. Initial viewing however indicates that a key priority from the parent point of view, which we are keen to take on board, is parental involvement and communication regarding pupil progress.

Planning Meetings: As a first response to this we would like to encourage as many parents as possible to come along to **Learning Experience Planning** afternoons. These will take place as follows:

Phoenix & Pegasus Classes
Monday 22nd March at 2.15pm
(Theme: WW2 Home Front)

Unicorn Class
Wednesday 24th March at 2.15pm
(Theme: The Sea)

Dragon Class

Tuesday 30th March time to be confirmed
(Theme: Native Americans)

During the session we would like parents to work with the children to generate ideas for the Summer Term's learning theme. This is a first go at what we hope will become a regular feature of our planning and learning together.

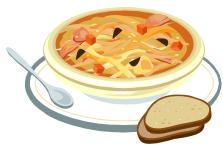
If you are able to attend please complete and return the response form (to your child's teacher) at the end of this letter. If you are not able to attend but would like to contribute some ideas please do so using the response form.

Target Setting & Review: Mrs Smith is trialling, with her class, a new approach to **weekly target setting** and review. The children record key learning aims at the start of the week and these are reviewed at the end. The children then bring home the record to share with their parents giving you a chance to discuss what they have done and keep an ongoing eye on how things are progressing. We hope to role this out across the school in due course.



Home Learning: Thirdly I am developing a new approach to home learning, which I have discussed with staff and a number of parents. This will involve providing a "Home Learning Grid" with a range of activities from which the children can select according to their interests and preferred learning styles. The system will be linked to a points reward – small tasks attracting a few points and larger tasks more points, with bonus points given for presentation, effort etc.

School Lunches



We are hoping to organise a special celebration of the tenth anniversary of the school meals scheme in the Summer Term. We hope to make this coincide with the usual "Open Day" events to enable as many folk as possible to be involved.

Our School Lunch scheme is a rarity in West Sussex. We are one of only three Primary Schools which retained a kitchen and hot meals service when the county moved to packed lunches only. The governors, in consultation with parents, worked hard to establish our excellent

service, maintained by our wonderful cook Amanda Staples (and her equally glamorous assistants Sue Packham & Julie Retter). The alternative of steam reheated meals which are now being offered in other West Sussex Schools is much less desirable.

The scheme has to be entirely self-funding, hence the requirement for advanced payment. If we do not have sufficient parents joining the scheme it would be impossible to keep it going. So thanks to all our loyal parents!

Over the years there have been some changes to the meals including, most recently, much stricter controls over the ingredients and recipes we are able to use (following the Jamie Oliver led campaign). All our meals must meet specific nutritional regulations checked regularly by a professional nutritionist. What Mrs Staples can do is strictly controlled so we have had to wave goodbye to some popular recipes such as the Apricot Pie but several new culinary experiences have come our way in place of these.

Easy Fund Raising

Our bursar, Mrs Allen, has arranged for our school to be represented on the **Easy Fund Raising** website. If you shop online then, by registering with the site and accessing your favourite sites through this site, every penny you spend online will help to raise money for the school with no additional cost to you.

easyfundraising
.org.uk

The web address is

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/westhoathlysch.

Once there, simply register as directed and then continue (via the built in search tool) to the sites from which you usually shop and the school will benefit. Things such as insurance renewals can raise as much as £40 for the school which will, in turn, be spent directly on resources for the benefit of the children.

Website + Discount Software



The new school website is now under development. We have purchased the necessary hosting, domain names and editing software and the framework is in place.

We have been working hard to develop the site, carefully considering how we can make it even more accessible than the original, excellent site.

Shirley Hickey and Helen Schofield have got started on populating the various pages and we hope to have something ready to “go live” after the Easter Holiday. We will keep you posted as to our progress as, although we have much more control over the style and format of the content this means it takes a little longer to set things up, especially as we are learning about the whole process as we proceed.

The Software we are using to develop and edit the new site is **Web Plus X4** by Serif. It is a very useful and easy to manage system. As part of the software package (including site licences) we have also acquired a drawing package, photo editing suite, movie maker and desk top publishing package. The company have informed me that any staff or pupil (families) who wish to purchase any of these titles may do so at a cost of £10.00 per item or £45.00 for all five titles. If you are interested please email me at school and, once I have confirmed the details I will let you know how to proceed.

Medication

We have been informed by WSCC that we are unable to administer any medication other than prescribed by your GP.

Yours Sincerely,



Adam J. Earle
Headteacher

Planning Meeting Response Form

Name:
(Please Print)

Please tick which of the planning meetings you intend to attend:

Pegasus / Phoenix - 22nd March 2010

Unicorn - 24th March 2010

Dragon - 30th March 2010

If you are not able to attend but would like to contribute ideas please do so in the space below:

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Dates List

March Update

MARCH

- 19 Year R & 6 Weigh in by School Nurse
- 22 Pegasus / Phoenix
Planning Meeting
- 24 Unicorn Planning Meeting
- 25 Dragon Class visit Wilderness Wood

7.00 Governors' Meeting
- 30 Dragon Planning Meeting

APRIL

- 1 End of Term
- 2-16 EASTER Holiday
- 19 8.45 Summer Term Begins
- 28 Dragon Class start swimming at the Dolphin

MAY

- 3 Bank Holiday - School Closed
- 21 Kwik Cricket Tournament
- 31-4 Half Term Break

JUNE

- 7 School Closed - INSET Day

EGGS Creativity Event
- 14-18 Cycling Proficiency Week (9.00 - 10.30)
- 16 1.30 Worth Abbey Diocesan Service (Yr 6)

JULY

- 23 End of Summer Term